

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original): A method of screening a test substance for possession of binding activity for MSP1₄₂ or a fragment thereof, the method comprising the steps of: combining or contacting, in any order,

- (i) a molecule comprising MSP1₄₂ or a fragment thereof,
- (ii) the test substance, and
- (iii) a comparison substance known to have binding activity for MSP1₄₂ or a fragment thereof;

and determining the presence and/or amount, if any, of comparison substance and/or test substance bound to the MSP1₄₂ or fragment thereof.

2. (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein the comparison substance inhibits processing of MSP1₄₂ and/or inhibits merozoite invasion of erythrocytes.

3. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the comparison substance is suramin or a suramin analogue.

4. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the comparison substance and/or the test substance is labelled to facilitate detection.

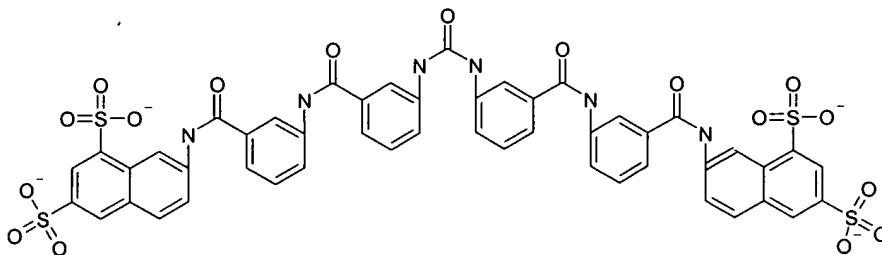
5. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the fragment of MSP1₄₂ comprises MSP1₁₉ and MSP1₃₃.

6. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein binding of the comparison and/or test substance is determined by fluorescence measurements.

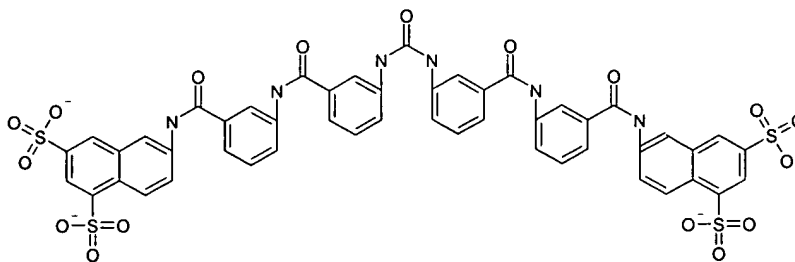
7. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the test substance is screened against a number of different MSP1₄₂ molecules or fragments thereof.

8. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the MSP₁₄₂ molecule or fragment thereof is a mutant of a naturally-occurring wild type sequence.
9. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the comparison substance comprises a suramin analogue having a m-aminobenzoyl or m'-aminobenzoyl-m-aminobenzoyl moiety.
10. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the comparison substance comprises a suramin analogue which is symmetrical.
11. (currently amended): A method according to claim ~~9 or~~ 10, wherein the analogue substance comprises suramin analogues C2 and C4 as defined in Table 1 herein, and having the structure shown below:

C2



C4



12. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the comparison substance comprises a molecule which exhibits at least a twofold increase in fluorescence upon binding in MSP1₄₂ or a fragment thereof.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising suramin or an analogue thereof and a pharmaceutically effective carrier therefor for use in the prevention and/or treatment of malarial disease in a mammalian subject.

15. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition ~~according to claim 10,~~ comprising suramin or an analogue thereof and a pharmaceutically effective carrier therefor for use in the prevention and/or treatment of malarial disease in a mammalian subject wherein the active ingredient is identified by performance of a method in accordance with ~~any one of claims 1-12~~ claim 1.

16. (canceled)

17. (new): A method of treating or preventing malarial disease in a mammal subject to said disease which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a composition according to claim 14.